

66  
Miss Estlin

Aug 21. 1852

Miss A. W. Weston,  
care of Miss Goodhue's  
New York  
N. Y.

BRISTOL  
MASS  
AUG 21 1852

PAID



Ms. A. 9. 2. 26. 49

...propagated in England had  
a prospect given to us of numerous  
the fatherhood of the race and having the  
circulation have been thoroughly explained of which  
we have now some definite hopes there will be a  
great contribution amongst the devoted  
but what from the agitation amongst the  
there is no saying. The last number of the  
lastly count for things like the "Produce"  
that they ever see them taken for out of  
their leaders which is not in themselves by  
with other life time advocates of freedom  
down officers of action, of course, in speaking  
of the body they have together do much that the  
disposition to do with justice as an  
more will be especially care. Help to us say  
the paper which is from the  
appeared that they will not with the  
of contact with heretics. Other authors  
same testimony for freedom, hope they are the  
other have written have the great part of the  
blame work in this country, how we  
first set of freedom advocates given up  
the paper, especially the propagation of  
some of their recently written in  
there for the many for the  
they form the movement of a  
A. A. ... that we had had some  
free had many of us who are  
business which contribute an  
was intended to the ... for



since New Organ<sup>n</sup> was propagated in England has  
a prospect opened to us of unmasking it. When  
the falsehoods & underhand doings of its <sup>circulators</sup> ~~circulators~~  
circulators have been thoroughly exposed, of which  
we have now some definite hope, there will be a  
great commotion amongst the deluded victims, &  
into what form the agitated mass will subside  
there is no saying. The Quakers will in all probability  
rally round Jos. Sturge & the "Free Produce" nonsense,  
& in that way excuse themselves for not offending  
their leaders & their sect in America by uniting  
with other less timid advocates of freedom in  
some efficient action. Of course I am speaking  
of the body, & they herd together so much that the  
exceptions who will venture on an independent  
course will be extremely rare. Miss Kease says  
she hopes nothing from them, & Mr Webb has always  
affirmed that they will not risk the contamination  
of contact with heretics. & other authorities give the  
same testimony, & judgment, & yet they are the people  
who have hitherto done the greatest part of the Anti  
slavery work in this country. Now we perceive a  
fresh set of zealous adherents growing up among  
the dissenters, chiefly the Congregationalists & Baptists  
who if their recently aroused indignation at  
their pro-slavery fraternities is rightly guided  
<sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ form the elements of a genuine & effective  
A.S. organization. Oh if we had but some of your  
speakers among us, who are free from those glaring  
heresies which constitute an excuse with the  
narrow minded or the lukewarm for keeping aloof



from the movement! If Mr Wendell Phillips would  
come & help start people in the right way there is  
knowing what might be done. But the machinery  
must be skilfully adjusted before it can be brought  
into operation; & we have no one here who can  
effect this. Mr G. Thompson of course has all the  
materials for enlightening the ignorant & disabling  
the prejudiced, & he can carry away an audience with  
his eloquent appeals; but there he cannot devote  
himself to the work in the midst of his other duties  
with sufficient steadiness to give it effect; &  
the warmth engendered by public speeches is  
sure to evaporate unless followed up by private  
conversations; & personal intercourse with  
members of the malignant American A. S. does  
more to stimulate & rectify his conception than  
anything. Mr Chapman has I find confidentially  
thrown out <sup>as a suggestion</sup> ~~to Mr Phillips to come~~ an idea  
to a few trustworthy  
parties, & all these catch at it with an eagerness  
which makes it seem too bright a vision ever to  
be realized. It has taken wonderful possession  
of Miss Pease's mind. But I must not go on pleading  
to you to make interest with him to cheer us with  
his presence; tho' I have gone so far as to maintain  
that it would be a most legitimate expenditure  
of funds entrusted to us for Antislavery purposes  
to bribe any mesmerist, or homeopathic, or hydro-  
pathist, to persuade Mr W. P. that a voyage to  
England w<sup>d</sup> restore her health, & I have further  
professed my willingness to take all the care of  
her improve as long as Mr Phillips is conducting his



missionary labours among us, this <sup>intense</sup> ~~of~~ it reached the  
point I expect Miss Pease to affect the capricious  
recommendations of her favorite Rev. Knydell.  
I am afraid it will be just as to go over the ground  
of poor Miss Wigham's position & policy again. The  
things furnished a standing quarrel between  
& your sisters we being supported by the Webbs  
Mrs. <sup>Mr. Hughes</sup> ~~Fallen~~ & they by Mr. Eaton. You did scold her  
a little, tho' not so vehemently as they do, Mr.  
Webb & I have come to the conclusion that it is  
one misfortune attendant on the clear sight-  
ness & quickness of apprehension of the West-  
family that they cannot ~~well~~ estimate  
sufficiently the extreme <sup>delicacy</sup> ~~advantages~~ & inconclusive-  
ness of most other people's minds. We still  
consider that you compare most dissimila-  
r positions when you treat of the resolutions of the  
Bristol A. S. Meeting & the doings of the Edinburgh  
Com<sup>e</sup>. For 5 years we have been keeping silent  
& hiding our time for speaking out with some  
chance of eliciting truth in reference to the Am. A. S.  
bits treatment by the "B. & Foreign." Having the matter  
for the craft <sup>in your</sup> entirely in our own hands, & a peculiar  
favourable opening for awaiting ourselves of their  
testimony in confirmation of what my Father  
thought shoud. to assert, we determined to bring the  
subject forward & challenge any rejoinder; we ha-  
d little to lose if any parties were offended, for few  
had entered into the merits of the case except those  
whom we had for some months been labouring  
to educate; yet with all these advantages we  
did not venture to tell even Miss Trebe (our  
ardent ally) of our intentions relative to the  
resolution of sympathy with the Am. A. S. which



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have had an independent existence or been  
derived thro' any other medium? This, however, they  
will not be persuaded, & I resign myself to the  
difference of faith by the belief that their unlearned  
position must be so self-evident, as to carry its own  
antidote & can wait patiently for the brighter light  
of a life to come, to dispel those mental clouds &  
errors which are accompanied with <sup>no moral</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>accords to</sup>  
stains. But as your party are to be here, by  
their latest report in about an hour & after their  
arrival there will be other things to do than in-  
dulge in this silent intercourse. I must turn  
from my moralizing to matters of fact. Mr G. Thom-  
son has been acquainting you with the details of  
the war with Teble, & my Father has written  
to Mr May details of our contests in the Unitarian  
camp to which I must refer you to see repetition.  
New Organization is as hydra-headed here as with  
you, & it is with the general prevalence of its  
poison its powerful means of diffusing brooding  
itself among us, that I think you are not fully  
conversant, in spite of your protestations to the  
contrary. You hardly know by what coaxing,  
or what keeping in the back ground, <sup>our own</sup>  
ultraism, we have hitherto been alone able to  
scrape together the only substantial proofs of Anti-  
slavery sentiment that find their way to you. Some sinister  
reports of Garnett or Pennington as to the misdeeds  
& dangerous heresies of the "Garrisonians" will stop  
our supplies in ~~some~~ <sup>many</sup> quarters for one year at least  
& sometimes irrecoverably. Now for the first time







showed to us one after writing it, if the worthy chairman  
had ~~not~~ suspected any such fire brand was among  
the proceedings he would never have consented  
to take the chair. It turned out, as you say, very  
well, no one venturing to contradict my Father  
at the time, & the foolish newspaper controversy  
to which gave rise, furnished an opening for making  
facts known, & setting investigations on foot  
which will tend to good. But then we had effected  
our purpose by reviving an almost extinct  
society which Scoble had smothered, but I had only  
joined when there seemed a chance of shaping  
it to our own purposes. Now there is Miss Wigham  
in a retrograding one, trying to keep them together  
till they can be led back to better ways. which some  
of the recent exposures of their false idols may  
have opened their eyes enough to do. She may  
not make out a flourishing story of her doings in  
the report, but she is perpetually doing with the  
instrumentalities afforded by the society which  
would be undone without it. She is always on  
the watch for means of making a right impression,  
contriving to get articles into papers, to circulate  
telling statements, & diffuse Antislavery light  
which she can only do as secretary & with the funds  
of a society. I have never seen her, so can only judge  
of her wisdom by the circumstances that come to my  
knowledge, & the opinion of those on whose judgment  
I rely. You shall see one of Mr Webb's numerous refer-  
ences to her & the views taken of her deatly by your  
family. I know you are not given to take offence at



what honest people say. His allusions to my exalted  
post came from your having told me to look after  
the other members of your family with a view to  
their good & that of the cause. He says, as there are  
limits to human virtue, he shall be only grieved,  
not surprised, at finding me grow insufferably con-  
-cited in consequence of your confidence, or at least  
that I begin to think myself somebody.

Friday. Aug. 22. You will learn from head quarters that  
our much longed for guests have arrived, & you will only  
want my confirmation of their good report of the utility  
they are looking very bright & well, as if good news & country  
scenes had worked most favorably on them. We mean  
to get all sorts of help out of them, & a great deal of enjoy-  
-ment too. My first & best suggestion is that they should  
stay among us as long as they possibly can, & enlighten  
our people. They can do more in a week than we  
in a year, by talking to honest inquirers. We will  
report progress amongst us, for you shall know what  
they are about, tho' our friend Emma does not make  
rapid progress in the art of writing. We want, with Mr  
Chapman's aid, to put an end to Lewis Tappan's power  
of mischief, now Scoble is banished, & then the way  
will be greatly cleared. We keep as firm a grasp as  
possible on Mr Grant, whose one weak point seems  
to be Mr Garrison's intruding his heresies on the A. S.  
platform, which being rooted in his head there is no  
dislodging. But he is so sound on other points that  
we hope to keep him in action; there is a paper in  
Bristol, the B. Examiner, that opens its columns to  
us, & my Father is now making an epitome of Mr  
Grant's charges against the B. & Foreign for it. I hope  
too we shall get Mr Garrison's reply to Mr Grant in  
it. That article has much delighted <sup>us</sup> from the exact



kind needed for circulation here. We will send you  
any papers containing documents of this nature that  
you will care to see. You make us rather humble  
by your complimentary reference to the zeal of Bristol  
the "lupine pass" of Boston ladies. The proof of the  
latter has not yet reached us, other evidence  
of the former is too recent to boast of. How the bazaars  
contributions will fare this year I know not. So  
many people as usual here I believe turning to the  
benefit. I fear conscience will not allow me, in di-  
vidually to enrich it with any manual production  
as I find all the time I can devote to that branch  
the enterprise is more advantageously spent in  
letting other people to work. Looking up the duties  
memories need refreshing than in handicraft  
labor. But I know you do not measure our  
interest by the size of our annual box which may  
be affected by various contingencies. With us  
the Antislavery work is so free from the peculiar  
trials with which it is connected with those in  
your country who take it up, that it makes us ashamed  
to have our positions compared. It only requires con-  
stant vigilance to seize upon every opening for making  
impressions, cultivating sympathies, & combatting  
desponding false <sup>to the work</sup> statements. This involves a  
consecration of time, & concentration of thoughts  
upon it which few are so circumstanced as to be  
able to bestow, however deeply their hearts may  
be in the cause. Those few are of course looked  
upon by most of their friends as monomaniacs  
& are brought occasionally into painful col-  
lisions with parties with whom they formerly  
acted in concert. Broken these parties are in addition



intimate friends & families whose interests  
until this subject was agitated been identical,  
sometimes costs even us a struggle, but this  
made, all who are independent of the world's  
can pursue their course unmolested. I wish  
I could give you details of our private & public  
controversy with R. Carpenter to whom we have  
always stood in the close relation I <sup>just</sup> describe  
Miss C. has quite given up Dr. Gannett since his  
"Thanksgiving sermon," "Our brother Philip is in  
full sympathy with her & with us, but of the other  
members of the family I cannot speak with some  
confidence. This scuffling letter seems hard  
worth sending you, but it was begun when I  
was very tired & has been continued at broken in-  
tervals. I think however you will like a due  
announcement of the well being of those dear  
to you & an assurance of the joy their presence  
is affording; so without further apology for  
incoherence I will let it go; I tell you some  
more to the point, in connection with the  
cause another time. Give my affectionate  
love to your sisters; you will comprehend the  
deep interest with which we watch for each  
fresh report of your brother, & how ardent are  
our desires for his restoration. My Father  
united in ever kind wish, to would my Aunt  
whom we are expecting shortly to join our  
circle.

Ever believe me, fondly yours  
Mary Estlin

We have had very happy letters from W. & S.  
Craft, who seem pursuing their studies  
with great pleasure.

MS. A. 9. 2. 26. 49